

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05158 271226Z

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FOR SWEET/TEIL, NE/ME FROM RAMSEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: FY 76 AND FY 77 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

REF: A. STATE 297777 B. STATE 298087

SUMMARY: DURING AID REP'S FIRST MEETING ON DECEMBER 24 WITH VICE MINISTER HILOU, STATE PLANNING COMMISSION, AFTER RAMSEY'S RETURN FROM AID/W CONSULTATION, HILOU STATED THAT SARG "HIGHER AUTHORITIES" HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO INFORM RAMSEY THAT THE SARG WANTED THE USG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUPHRATES BASIN. HILOU ALSO STATED THAT AS SOON AS THE IBRD-FUNDED RURAL ELECTRIFICATION STUDY WAS IN DRAFT FORM, THE SARG WOULD GIVE A COPY OF THE DRAFT REPORT TO AID/DAMASCUS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND USE IN DEVELOPING A PROJECT IN THIS SECTOR FOR FY 77 FUNDING. ALSO DISCUSSED WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF AID/DAMASCUS FUNDING A TRANSPORTATION STUDY FROM THE FY 75 TECHNICAL SERVICES/FEASIBILITY STUDYS' \$4 MILLION GRANT. END SUMMARY.

1. RE EUPHRATES IRRIGATION PROJECT, SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH HILOU AND KAHLE (MINISTER OF EUPHRATES DAM), THE POSSIBILITY OF AID PARTICIPATING IN THE BALIKH
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05158 271226Z

PROJECT (PARTICULARLY UNIT II OF THE OVERALL IBRD-

STUDIED PROJECT) HAS BEEN TAKEN UP. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS INTEREST SHOWN BY THESE TWO SARG OFFICIALS, NO INDICATION WAS FORTHCOMING IN THE EARLIER DISCUSSIONS THAT THE SARG WOULD REQUEST USAID ASSISTANCE. IN THE DECEMBER 24 MEETING, HILOU STATED THAT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE EUPHRATES DAM MINISTRY. HILOU WILL INFORM MINISTER KAHLE OF THE HIGHER AUTHORITY APPROVAL AND ASK THAT ALL PERTINENT DATA BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AID/DAMASCUS TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING NECESSARY AID DOCUMENTATION LEADING TO LOAN AUTHORIZATION AND AN FY 76 PROJECT LOAN.

2. IN THE SAME MEETING, HILOU REAFFIRMED EARLIER DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE AID PARTICIPATION IN RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND STATED THAT THE IBRD-STUDY DRAFT REPORT WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AID/DAMASCUS AS SOON AS IT IS PREPARED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE DRAFT REPORT WILL BE READY NEXT JULY, IF STUDY IS COMPLETED ON TARGET.

3. POSSIBLE AID FINANCING OF AN OVERALL TRANSPORTATION STUDY FROM FUNDS OBLIGATED IN THE FY 75 \$4 MILLION GRANT FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES/FEASIBILITY STUDY WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. HILOU STATED THAT THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION ALREADY HAD EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM SEVERAL FIRMS INTERESTED IN DOING THE TRANSPORTATION STUDY. THESE FIRMS HAD RESPONDED TO A REQUEST FOR INTEREST CONTAINED IN A FRAME OF REFERENCE/SCOPE OF WORK PAPER THE SARG DISTRIBUTED LAST SUMMER. HILOU WASN'T SURE (WOULD CHECK AND LET RAMSEY KNOW) WHETHER OR NOT SOME U.S. FIRMS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE TRANSPORTATION STUDY.

COMMENT: WE KNOW THAT TWO US FIRMS, AND POSSIBLY OTHERS, HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE TRANSPORTATION STUDY. END COMMENT.

AFTER A QUICK TELEPHONE CALL TO THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, HILOU TOLD RAMSEY THAT THE MINISTRY WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF A \$2 - 2.5 MILLION STUDY.
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PAGE 03 DAMASC 05158 271226Z

4. COMMENT: WITH THE ABOVE DIRECT INTEREST IN AID PARTICIPATION IN A LARGE EUPHRATES IRRIGATION PROJECT IN FY 76 AND IN A LARGE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT IN FY 77, IT APPEARS FEASIBLE TO PROCEED WITH PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN LINE WITH RAMSEY'S DISCUSSIONS OF THE FY 76 AND FY 77 PROGRAMS DURING HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. OUR

SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO REFS A AND B FOR FY 76/77
PROGRAM PROJECTIONS ARE SUBJECTS OF SEPTELS.

DECON FOLLOWING DECEMBER 31, 1976.
MURPHY

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